

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

March 2, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Jeanne Mirro, Chair

Minutes

Members present: none

Members via teleconference: Jeanne Mirro, Karen Ellerbrook, Dick Stifel

Members absent: Earl Williams, Judy Hess, Jon Ford

IAC staff present: Lewis Ricci, Michelle Anderson, Dennis Hardin

Note: Since there was no quorum present, action items were deferred until a brief meeting prior to the March 11 meeting of the full Commission.

1. **Approval of Agenda and December 2010 Minutes.** Commissioner Jeanne Mirro convened the meeting at 9:05 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves. No action was taken on the consent agenda.

2. **Financials.** IAC Executive Director Lewis Ricci presented a handout (attached) showing the FY 2011 year-to-date budget current through January 21, 2011. An updated budget will be presented at the next meeting of the full Commission on March 11. Mr. Ricci reviewed current budget activity in the Indiana legislature, which is in session. The previously-announced budget proposal submitted to the legislature by the Governor is not expected to undergo any further changes either in the House of Representatives or the Senate. The submitted budget represents a 15% reduction from the last legislative appropriation. IAC has requested a "change package" which would restore some funding, but there has been no announcement from the State Budget Agency concerning its approval. Mr. Ricci also reviewed the latest budget news from the National Endowment for the Arts; he expects the State of Indiana to see a reduction in funding of about \$100,000. He asked the Executive Committee to consider what options might be undertaken by IAC to cope with the reduction. The Committee asked that Mr. Ricci and Deputy Director Michelle Anderson prepare a report of possible scenarios showing where cuts in the IAC budget could be made in grant programs or administrative costs or a combination of both. The Committee agreed to meet again via teleconference on March 22 to discuss ideas in greater detail.

3. **Partnership Issues.** Mr. Ricci presented copies of letters (attached) from Arts Place and Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana, each expressing its intention to withdraw as a Regional Arts Partner as of June 30, 2011. Members of the Committee expressed the

view that neither letter comes as a surprise to IAC. The Madame Walker Urban Life Center in Indianapolis has expressed its intention to apply to become the Regional Arts Partner for Region 7. There was discussion among Committee members and IAC staff regarding interim measures for providing services to areas of the state which will be losing a current Regional Arts Partner. A plan for re-drawing the Arts Regions with fewer Partners may be a viable approach. IAC Chair Jeanne Mirro suggested the appointment of an ad-hoc committee to study the issues and make recommendations.

4. **Strategic Planning.** Mr. Ricci presented a printout of the latest draft of the IAC 2011 – 2016 Strategic Plan (copy attached). Members of the Committee recommended a few minor changes. IAC will post the final draft on its website before close of business today and provide for public comment. The Committee on the Future will convene on March 10 to consider any final public input, and the plan will be presented by COF Chair Dick Stifel to the full Commission for approval at its March 11 meeting.

5. **Other.** Commissioner Mirro reported that a select committee of IAC Commissioners convened on February 8th to consider an appeal by the City of Muncie, which was not selected by an independent panel to become a designated Cultural District. The select committee, consisting of IAC Chair Jeanne Mirro, Commissioner Trevor Yager, who facilitated the independent panel, and Commissioner Jeff Kirk, who is the IAC's legal counsel, recommended that the panel scoring and decision be upheld. Minutes of the select committee meeting are attached. The recommendation will be presented to the full Commission at its March 11 meeting.

Commissioner Mirro reminded the Executive Committee that the Program Evaluation Committee has expressed a desire for Cultural District criteria to be reviewed for future applications, and that a sub-committee of Commissioners will be appointed to conduct such a review later this year. The sub-committee will also look at conflict-of-interest guidelines for all future IAC grant application processes.

Commissioner Mirro also reported that a sub-committee will be appointed later this year to examine Arts in Education grants, with an eye toward making these IAC grants more effective. Some available IAC funding is not being applied for under the current guidelines, which provide for grants directly to specific schools to support arts programming. Many schools find that the time and effort necessary to administer such grants is prohibitive. Arts in Education grants are funded by the IAC Cultural Trust Fund.

Commission Vice-Chair Karen Ellerbrook reported on efforts to convene a Foundation Roundtable in Indianapolis in May 2011. Invitations will be sent to approximately 25 foundations throughout Indiana. The session will be facilitated by Management Consultant Sarah Peterson and will be held in the Indiana State Library. The final date has not been determined.

6. **Old Business.** There was no old business.

7. **New Business.** IAC Executive Assistant Dennis Hardin reminded the Committee of arrangements that have been made for the full Commission on the evening of March 10, which include a guided tour of the new Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel. Commissioner Linda Goad and Commissioner Jeff Kirk, both from Carmel, will be hosts for the tour.

8. **Adjourn.** Ms. Mirro thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 10:30 a.m.